

How can I get involved?

Only a state senator or representative can actually sponsor a bill, but anyone can get involved.

Every day, people across Kentucky have ideas about something to make the Commonwealth a better place to live. To change or create a law, you can contact your state senator or representative; to find out more about how a law is implemented, you can contact the state agency that oversees that area.

For more information on the General Assembly, including a full list of statutes and administrative regulations, go to LRC's Web site at [<lrc.ky.gov>](http://lrc.ky.gov).

The most accurate way to find out who your legislators are is to call your county clerk. You can also call the Legislative Research Commission at **(502) 564-8100** with your mailing address, or go to [<vote-smart.org>](http://vote-smart.org) and type in your nine-digit zip code or full mailing address.

LRC operates toll-free numbers all year to help you keep in contact with your General Assembly:

To leave a message for your legislator, call
1-800-372-7181.

For a current agenda of legislative meetings, call
1-800-633-9650.

People with speech or hearing impairments may use the toll-free Kentucky Relay Service at **1-800-648-6056**, or LRC's TTY message line at **1-800-896-0305**.

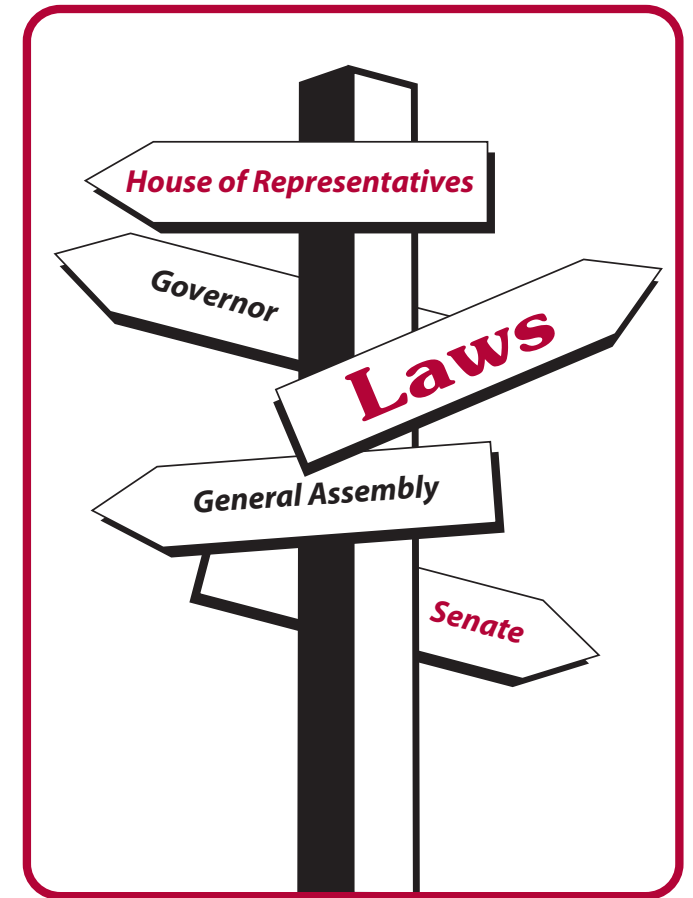
During legislative sessions, toll-free Bill Status and Spanish-language telephone lines are also available. Check local newspapers or the LRC Web site for those session-only phone numbers.



Legislative Research Commission

700 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-8100 lrc.ky.gov

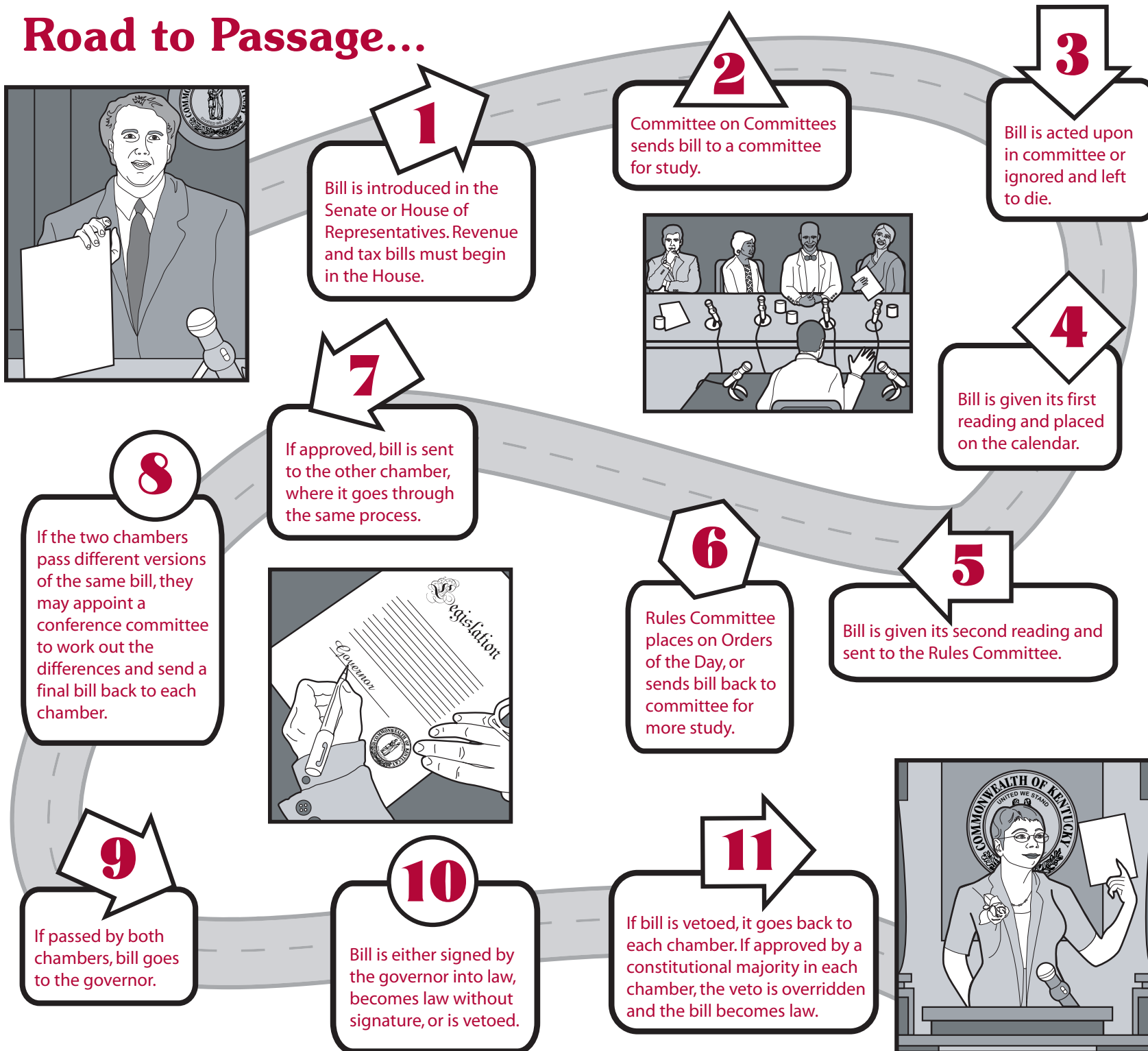
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The Road to Passage: How a bill becomes a law



Road to Passage...



Glossary

Amendment - A change to an existing bill. Amendments can be as simple as changing a few words or as complex as re-writing the entire bill.

Bill - A written proposal to create or change a law. Most bills can become a law only if two-fifths of the members elected to each chamber vote for it.

Budget - A bill that determines the state's taxes and spending. Budget bills generally begin in the House.

Committee on Committees - A group of legislative leaders that assigns each bill to the appropriate committee for study.

Calendar - A list of bills that have had one reading and are ready for a second reading (to become a law, bills must have three readings).

Constitutional Majority - Half of all the members of a chamber, plus one. A constitutional majority is needed to pass certain types of bills as well as to override a governor's veto.

Floor - Where each chamber meets. The term is also used to refer to each chamber as a whole, such as, "sending a bill to the House floor."

Simple Majority - Half of all the votes cast, plus one.

Orders of the Day - A list of bills and resolutions that are ready in each chamber to be debated and/or adopted that day.

Rules Committee - A group of legislative leaders and other members that prepares the Orders of the Day.

Statute - Another word for a law.

Veto - The governor's rejection of a bill passed by the General Assembly. If each chamber then approves the bill again by a constitutional majority vote, the veto is overridden and becomes law.